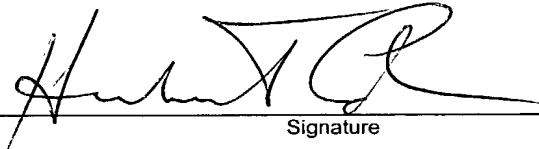


JC14 Rec'd PCT/PTO 30 NOV 2001

FORM PTO-1390 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (REV 10-94) TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 000026.00031 U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/980084
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
PCT/GB00/020098	1 June 2000	1 June 1999
TITLE OF INVENTION	A method of Packaging Goods	
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US	Andrew Laitt	
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:		
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(I). 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date. 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application is filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau) (WO 00/73149) b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 8. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). 9. <input type="checkbox"/> An executed oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). 10. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)). Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included: 11. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included 13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. 14. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 15. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. 16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: Copies of: Form PCT/RO/101, WO 00/731439 (PCT/GB00/02098 as published); International Search Report (published 25.11.99); Form PCT/RO/101 – PCT Request; Form PCT/IPEA/416 (Trans. if IPER); Form PCT/IPEA/409 (IPER with annexes);		

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US APPLICATION NO. 09/798008 4		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/GB00/02098		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO. 000026.00031	
17. <input type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted:				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)):					
Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO				\$890.00	
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482)				\$710.00	
No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2))				\$740.00	
Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO				\$1040.00	
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4)				\$ 100.00	
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =				\$890.00	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				\$130.00	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED		NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	
Total Claims	21	20 =	1	X \$18.00	\$18.00
Independent Claims	1	3 =		X \$84.00	\$
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$280.00	\$	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$1,038.00	
Reduction by 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).				\$	
SUBTOTAL =				\$1,038.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				\$	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$1,038.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28,3.31). \$40.00 per property				\$	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$1,038.00	
Amount to be refunded:				\$	
charged:				\$	
a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ 1,038.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.					
b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-2185 . A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.					
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:					
CUSTOMER NO.: 002779					
BLANK ROME COMISKY & MCCAULEY LLP					
900 - 17th Street, N.W., SUITE 1000					
Washington, D.C. 20006					
				 Signature	
NAME				Herbert Cohen	
Registration No.				25,109	
Date				November 30, 2001	

09/980084

JC10 Rec'd PCT/PTO 30 NOV 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent application of)
Andrew Laitt)
Serial No. Unknown)
(Based on PCT/GB00/02098)) Att'y. Dkt. No.: 000026.000031
Filed: November 30, 2001)
For: A method of packaging goods)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, kindly amend the application as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please add the attached ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 21.

Please amend the following claims:

4. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least two strips of sealed pouches are arranged in the carton.

6. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the at least two strips of sealed pouches are releasably attached to one another.

7. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one pleat is formed in the tube so that the pouches are expandable.

9. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pouches in each strip are substantially the same size.

10. (Amended) A method as claim in claim 1, wherein each pouch is substantially cuboidal in shape.

12. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sealing is by means of heat.

13. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sealing is by means of an adhesive.

14. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tube is formed of plastics material.

15. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tube is formed of waxed paper.

16. (Amended) A method as claim in claim 1, wherein printed matter is applied to each pouch of the strip of pouches.

17. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein perforations are formed between each pouch of the strip of pouches to enable separation of the pouches from one another.

22. (Amended) Packaged brittle food-stuff produced by the method as claimed in claim 1.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to make clarifying revisions to the claims in accordance with U.S. practice. No narrowing of the claims scope is intended.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

In the event there are any questions relating to this Amendment or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney.

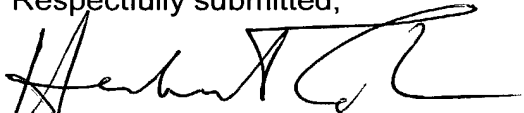
Please charge any shortage or credit any overpayment of fees to BLANK ROME COMISKY & MCCAULEY LLP, Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (000026.00031). In the event that a petition for an extension of time is required to be submitted herewith and in the event that a separate petition does not accompany this report, Applicants hereby petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for as many months as are required to render this submission timely. Any fee due is authorized above.

Date: November 30, 2001

BLANK ROME COMISKY & MCCAULEY LLP
900 - 17th Street, N.W., Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 530-7400 (phone)/ (202) 463-6915 (facsimile)

Respectfully submitted,

BY:


Herbert Cohen
Registration No. 25,109

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of packaging goods comprising the steps of forming a tube, forming a first seal at a lower end of the tube, feeding a pre-determined amount of the goods to be packaged into the tube, forming a second seal in the tube at a pre-determined distance above the first seal, repeating the steps of feeding the goods and sealing along the tube to form a strip of sealed pouches containing the goods and inserting the strip of sealed pouches into a carton.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Claim 21 has been cancelled.

Claims 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 17-22 have been amended as follows:

4. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 2 [or 3], wherein at least two strips of sealed pouches are arranged in the carton.

6. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 4 [or Claim 5], wherein the at least two strips of sealed pouches are releasably attached to one another.

7. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 [any one of the preceding claims], wherein at least one pleat is formed in the tube so that the pouches are expandable.

9. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 [any one of the preceding claims], wherein the pouches in each strip are substantially the same size.

10. (Amended) A method as claim in claim [any one of the preceding claims]1, wherein each pouch is substantially cuboidal in shape.

12. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 [any one of the preceding claims], wherein the sealing is by means of heat.

13. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 [any one of the preceding claims], wherein the sealing is by means of an adhesive.

14. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 [any one of the preceding claims], wherein the tube is formed of plastics material.

15. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim[s] 1 [to 13], wherein the tube is formed of waxed paper.

16. (Amended) A method as claim in claim 1 [any one of the preceding claims], wherein printed matter is applied to each pouch of the strip of pouches.

17. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, [any one of the preceding claims]wherein perforations are formed between each pouch of the strip of pouches to enable separation of the pouches from one another.

22. (Amended) Packaged brittle food-stuff produced by the method as claimed in claim 1 [any one of the preceding claims].

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51PRTS

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A/Method Of Packaging Goods

The present invention relates to a method of packaging goods, in particular packaging food-stuffs which remain fresh for a limited period only, such as breakfast cereals, crisps, biscuits and ground coffee.

Conventionally, food products such as breakfast cereals and the like are packaged in cartons which contain a sealed bag for holding a quantity of the breakfast cereal, usually in quantities of 125g to 1000g. Once the carton is opened and the factory seal of the bag is broken, the contents become stale and soft within a few weeks, or even sooner. Once stale the enjoyment of the crisp and fresh taste of the newly opened packet is lost. One solution to this is to supply individual 25g or 30g portion packs or any other suitable size of portion pack that may be desired. Portion packs comprise a bag containing an individual portion within an individual carton. This form of packaging is comparatively expensive compared with the larger cartons.

Furthermore, food products, in particular cereal flakes, at the bottom of the sealed bag tend to break or be crushed during filling of the bag and during transit, so that the last few portions of cereal in the bag become powder-like. This powder-like cereal is unattractive to consumers, so that consumers often discard the last few portions of cereal containing the powder-like cereal, thus resulting in wastage.

An object of the present invention is to overcome the above disadvantages.

The advantage of the present invention is that it provides a method of manufacturing packaging, which gives consumers the benefit of enjoying the fresh, crisp taste of a newly opened packet every time they consume the product. The invention also provides a method of manufacturing packaging which is relatively inexpensive yet provides the

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taste and freshness benefits of an individual portion pack. Furthermore, the invention provides a method of manufacturing packaging in which the contents of the packaging remain substantially unbroken until consumption.

The invention provides a method of packaging goods as claimed in Claim 1.

The strip of sealed pouches may be arranged substantially upright or transversely in the carton. Preferably, the strip of sealed pouches is arranged in a concertina or zigzag configuration in the carton.

In providing a strip of sealed pouches, a standard serving portion of a food product, for example breakfast cereal, of typically 25g or 30g, is provided and therefore the crisp and fresh taste of a newly opened packet can be enjoyed every time the cereal is consumed since breaking the seal of one pouch does not affect the integrity of the remaining pouches in the strip.

The packaged goods made according to the present invention provide a less expensive means of providing individual portions of a food product than that of the previously mentioned portion packs. Since the food product contained within a pouch remains fresh, there is little wastage of stale food products and the product has an extended shelf life. It also avoids the time difficulty in trying to carefully re-seal and close the carton in order to maintain integrity of the food product once the carton has been opened. It also provides a more hygienic method of serving food other than of sharing a large carton. Furthermore, it avoids the problem of attracting pests such as ants and mice to an open packet of food. Furthermore, providing individual portions of the food product makes it easier for calorie control and portion control for dieters. Packaging the food in individual pouches also reduces the risk of damage to particularly brittle food-stuffs, such as crisp cereal flakes, since the packaging and layer of air within each pouch and between each pouch has a cushioning effect, thus reducing the likelihood of breakage.

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The method of packaging goods according to the present invention provides a relatively low cost of manufacture since the strip of pouches can easily be folded concertina-fashion into a typical existing carton which avoids the need to re-tool carton making machines. The method utilises established and proven materials. Further, the cartons can be varied in width, height and depth to provide different sizes giving a large shelf presence in retail outlets for promotional purposes etc. The method provides for different pack sizes to be produced on one machine, for example 8 pouches, 10, 16 or 20 pouch packets.

Furthermore, the method of packaging goods according to the present invention provides the option of combining different food products in a single carton.

Preferred embodiments of the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 shows in a diagrammatic perspective view an initial step of forming a tube;

Figure 2 shows in a view similar to Figure 1 the steps of filling, sealing and perforating pouches formed in the tube;

Figure 3 shows in an enlarged perspective view the combined pouch perforating and severing tool of Figure 2;

Figure 4 shows a strip of pouches arranged in a zigzag manner across the width of the carton;

Figure 5 shows two strips of pouches arranged in a zigzag manner across the depth of the carton;

Figure 6 shows two strips of pouches arranged in a zigzag manner across the width of the carton;

Figure 7 shows the strip of pouches of Figure 5 joined side by side;

Figure 8 shows a strip of pouches arranged in a zigzag manner along the height of the carton;

Figure 9 shows two strips of pouches arranged in a zigzag manner along the height of the carton and

Figure 10 shows two strips of pouches arranged substantially vertically in the carton.

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In Figure 1 a sheet of plastics material 1 is wrapped around a cylindrical former 200 so that two longitudinal edges 201 of the plastics material overlap to form a tube 1¹. Although Figure 1 shows a tube of circular cross-section, the tube may have any other suitable cross-section such as a square or rectangular cross-section. The overlapping longitudinal edges 201 are then heat-sealed by means of a heated seam former 202 to form a central longitudinal seam 2. The base of the tube 1¹ is then sealed by means of heated sealing jaws 203 (See Figure 2). Two heated sealing jaws 203 move from opposite sides of the tube 1¹ towards the centre of the tube until they both contact the plastics material of the tube 1¹. A seal 3, which is transverse to and overlaps the longitudinal seam 2, is thus formed. At the same time as the sealing jaws 203 are moving towards the centre of the tube, opposed pleat formers (not shown) move in a transverse direction to the sealing jaws 203 (in the direction of the arrows 4¹), also towards the centre of the tube 1¹. The pleat formers provide tucks in the side of the tube 1¹ so as to form diametrically-opposed pleats 4. The tube 1¹ is then filled with food-stuff 204 to be packaged. The food-stuff 204 is simply dropped into the tube 1¹ from above. As the food-stuff 204 is being dropped into the tube 1¹, the tube 1¹ is moved downwards with respect to the sealing jaws 203 and when the desired quantity of the food-stuff 204 has been dropped into the tube 1¹, the sealing jaws 203 and pleat formers move once again towards the centre of the tube 1¹ to simultaneously seal the tube 1¹ and form tucks at a pre-determined distance from the sealed base so as to form a "brick-shaped" pouch 5. This "brick-shaped" form is particularly space-efficient. The further seal 3 will commonly form the top seal of the pouch 5 and the base seal of a second pouch 5a. The volume of air in each pouch is determined by the pouch dimensions, which are calculated so as to be sufficient for the pouch to contain the desired quantity of food-stuff, as well as a quantity of air to protect the food-stuff. This is particularly important for delicate food-stuffs, such as cereal flakes.

The main bodies of the pouches 5 and 5a are substantially rectangular in cross-section. The pouches 5 and 5a are substantially the same size as one another. To allow separation of the pouches 5 and 5a at a later stage perforations 6 are made in the common seal 3. The perforations 6 are introduced into the common seal by means of a

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comb-type cutter 205, which is located in one of the sealing jaws 203. The comb-type cutter 205 is illustrated in greater detail in Figure 3.

Once the sealing jaws 203 have formed the common seal 3, the comb-type cutter 205 moves from a retracted position in the sealing jaw 203 until it meets and pierces the common seal 3 at intervals across its width. The intervals between the perforations are determined by the spacing of teeth 206 of the comb-type cutter 205. The comb-type cutter 205 then retracts to its rest position until sealing next takes place. When a desired number of pouches has been filled and sealed to form a strip 7, for example 10 pouches, the step of forming perforations 6 in the common seal 3 is replaced by a cutting step. The comb-type cutter 205 will also be used in the cutting step. As before, the comb-type cutter will move from its retracted position in the sealing jaw 203, but instead of merely piercing the common seal 3, the comb-type cutter 205 pierces right through the common seal 3 until cutting edges 207 meet the common seal 3 and two adjacent pouches are completely severed from one another. The lower of the adjacent pouches is still attached to the strip 7 of filled and sealed pouches while the upper of the adjacent pouches forms a base for a further strip of pouches.

The dimensions of the seal 3 should be such that the "brick-shaped" air-filled cushioned pouches are sealed effectively and that the strip 7 of "brick-shaped" pouches may also be folded for storage in a space-efficient and cost-efficient manner.

The strip of filled and sealed pouches 7 is then inserted into a carton 8, as shown for example in Figure 4, where the strip of pouches is arranged in a concertina or zigzag manner across the width of the carton 8 in layers, each layer having two pouches. This arrangement of the pouches in the carton 8 serves to protect the food-stuff inside the pouches against crushing by food-stuff in adjacent pouches. Alternative arrangements of the pouches are shown in Figures 5 to 10. These arrangements also serve to protect the food-stuff in the pouches, in particular against crushing. In Figure 5, for example, two strips of pouches are arranged parallel to one another and in a zigzag manner across the depth (into the page) of the carton 8 in layers, each layer having only one pouch.

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Printed matter may be applied to each pouch prior to filling each pouch with the food-stuff, e.g. information relating to the food and calorie contents, the sell-by date etc.

ART 34 AMDT

Claims:

1. A method of packaging a brittle food-stuff comprising the steps of forming a tube, forming a first seal at a lower end of the tube, feeding a pre-determined amount of the food-stuff to be packaged into the tube, forming a second seal in the tube at a pre-determined distance above the first seal, repeating the steps of feeding the food-stuff and sealing along the tube to form a strip of sealed pouches of pre-determined dimensions containing the food-stuff and inserting the strip of sealed pouches into a carton, wherein the pouch dimensions are calculated such that each pouch can contain the desired quantity of food-stuff, as well as sufficient air to protect the food-stuff by cushioning.
2. A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the strip of sealed pouches is arranged substantially upright or transverse in the carton.
3. A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the strip of sealed pouches is arranged in a concertina configuration in the carton.
4. A method as claimed in Claim 2 or 3, wherein at least two strips of sealed pouches are arranged in the carton.
5. A method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the at least two strips of sealed pouches are arranged parallel to one another in the carton.
6. A method as claimed in Claim 4 or Claim 5, wherein the at least two strips of sealed pouches are releasably attached to one another.
7. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one pleat is formed in the tube so that the pouches are expandable.

ART 34 AMDT

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8. A method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the at least one pleat is formed in each pouch after the lower end of each pouch is sealed but before the goods are fed into the pouch.
9. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the pouches in the or each strip are substantially the same size.
10. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein each pouch is substantially cuboidal in shape.
11. A method as claimed in Claim 10, wherein each pouch is substantially cubic in shape.
12. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the sealing is by means of heat.
13. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the sealing is by means of an adhesive.
14. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the tube is formed of plastics material.
15. A method as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 13, wherein the tube is formed of waxed paper.
16. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein printed matter is applied to each pouch of the strip of pouches.
17. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein perforations are formed between each pouch of the strip of pouches to enable separation of the pouches from one another.

18. A method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the perforations are formed by means of a comb-type cutter.
19. A method as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the comb-type cutter has means for severing the pouches from one another.
20. A method as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the pouches are severed from one another after a pre-determined number of pouches has been filled and sealed.
21. A method of packaging brittle food-stuff substantially as herein described with reference to any one of the embodiments shown in the accompanying drawings.
22. Packaged brittle food-stuff produced by the method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims.

NK

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



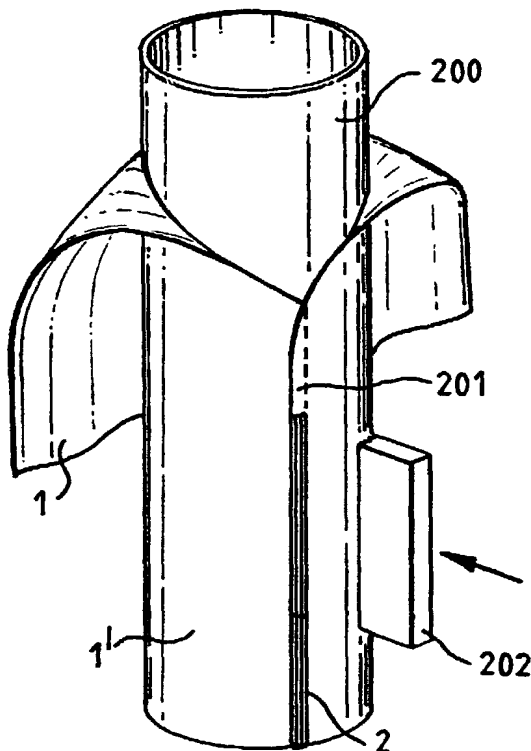
(43) International Publication Date
7 December 2000 (07.12.2000)

(10) International Publication Number
PCT
WO 00/73149 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **B65B 9/20**
- (21) International Application Number: **PCT/GB00/02098**
- (22) International Filing Date: **1 June 2000 (01.06.2000)**
- (25) Filing Language: **English**
- (26) Publication Language: **English**
- (30) Priority Data:
9912719.3 **1 June 1999 (01.06.1999)** **GB**
- (71) Applicant and
(72) Inventor: **LAITT, Andrew [GB/GB]; 22 Dempster Road, London SW18 1AT (GB).**
- (74) Agent: **DEVONS, David, Jon; Marks & Clerk, 57-60 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3LS (GB).**
- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:**
— *With international search report.*

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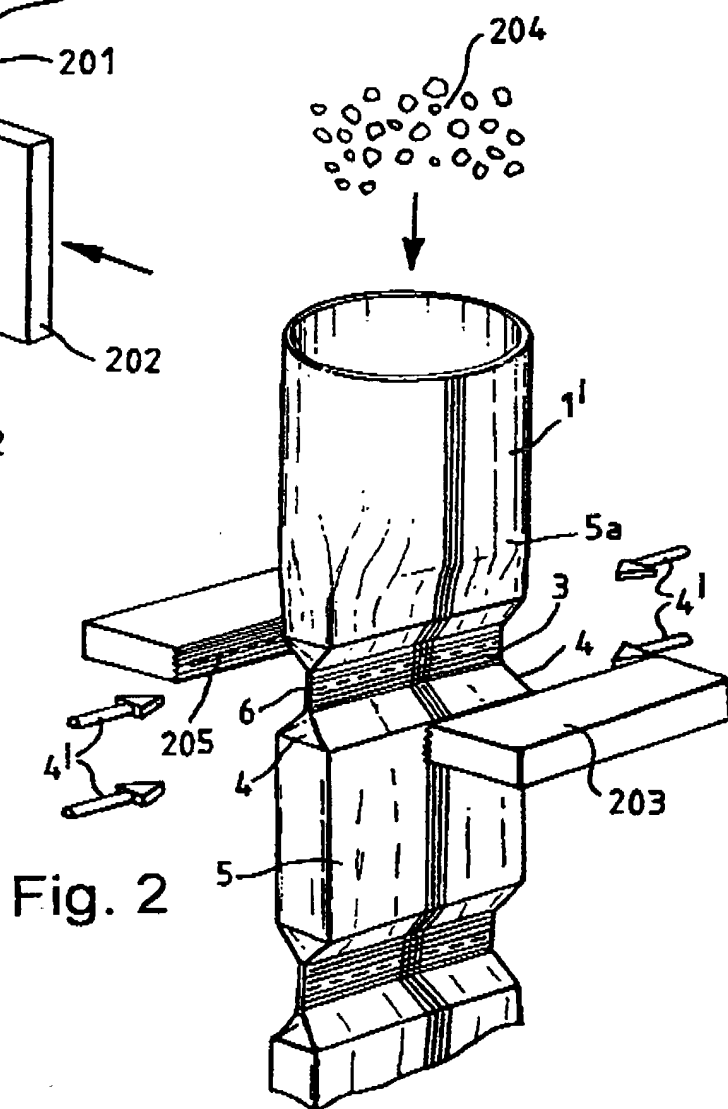
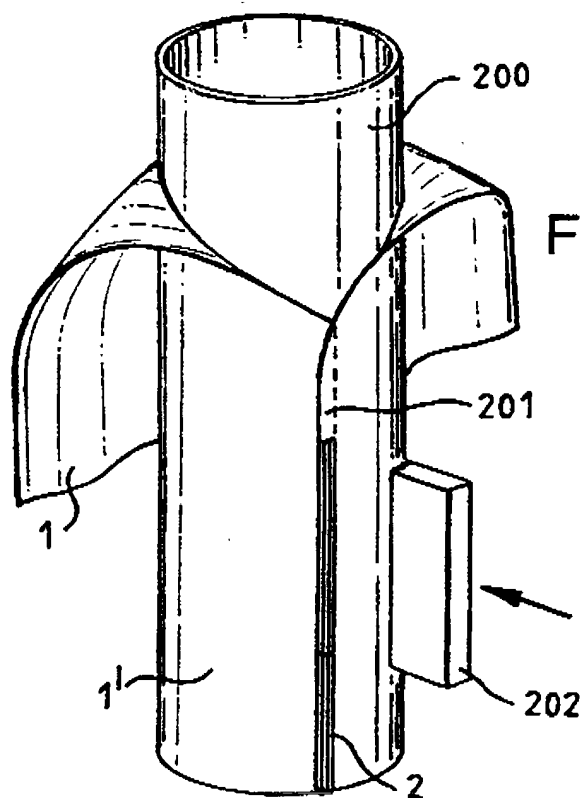
(54) Title: A METHOD OF PACKAGING GOODS



(57) Abstract: A method of packaging goods comprises the steps of forming a tube (1¹), forming a first seal (3) at a lower end of the tube (1¹), feeding a pre-determined amount of the goods to be packaged (204) into the tube (1¹), forming a second seal in the tube (1¹) at a pre-determined distance above the first seal (3), repeating the steps of feeding the goods and sealing along the tube (1¹) to form a strip of sealed pouches (7) containing the goods (204) and inserting the strip of sealed pouches (7) into a carton (8).

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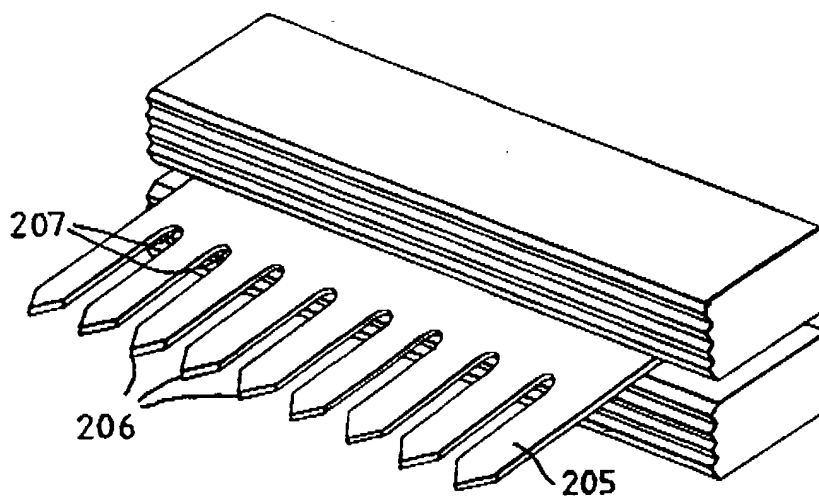


Fig. 3

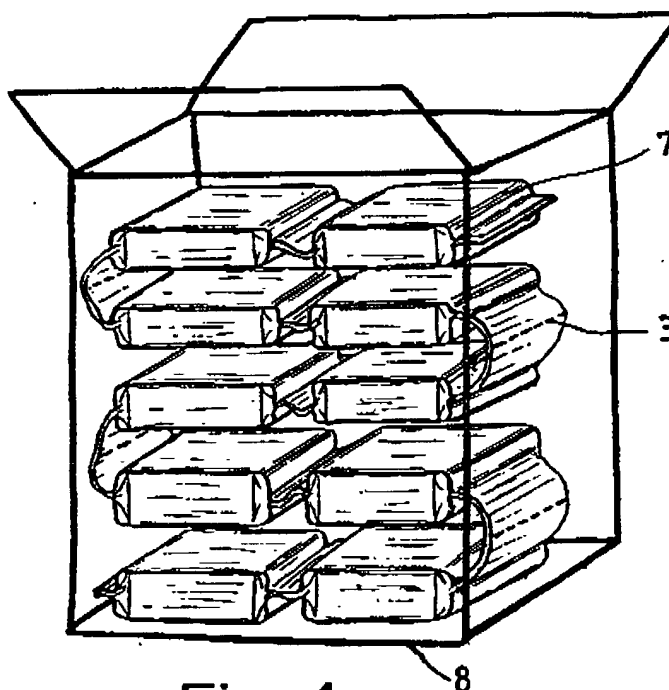


Fig. 4

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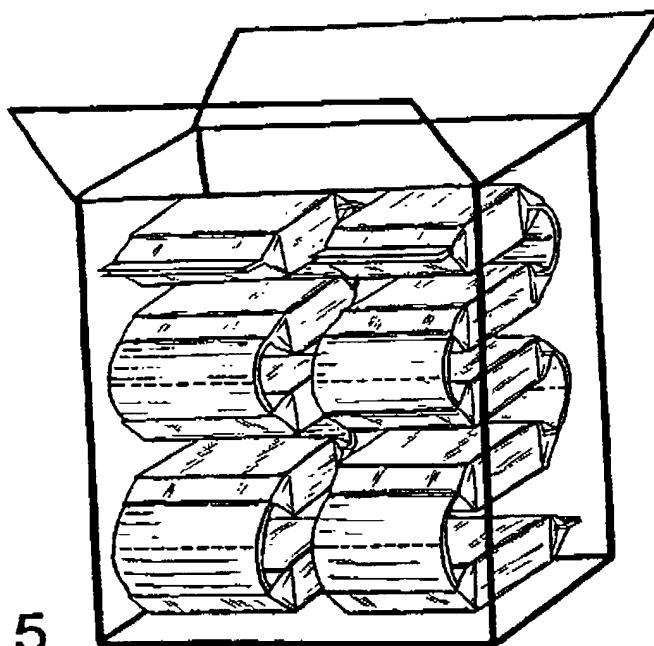


Fig. 5

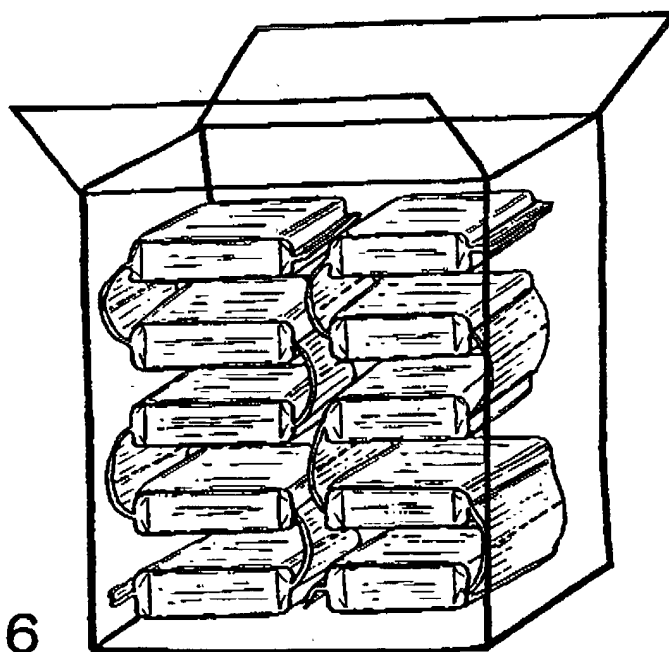


Fig. 6

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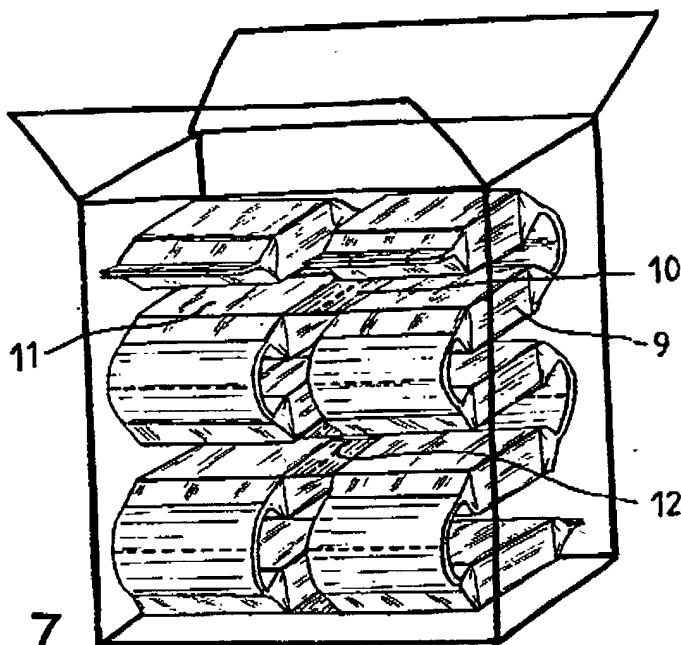


Fig. 7

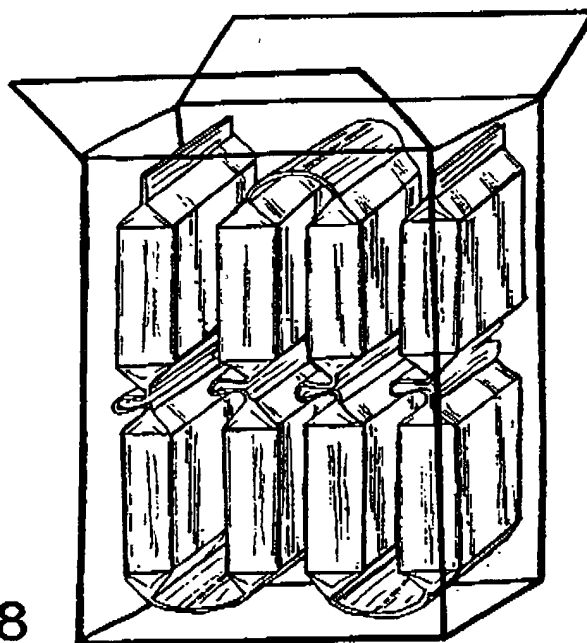


Fig. 8

DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

A Method of Packaging Goods

the specification of which

☐ is attached hereto

☒ was filed on 1 June 2000 as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number PCT/GB00/02098 and (if applicable) was amended on _____

I hereby authorize our attorneys to insert the serial number assigned to this application.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

PRIOR FOREIGN/PCT APPLICATION(S) AND ANY PRIORITY CLAIMS UNDER 35 USC §119			
APPLICATION NO.	COUNTRY	DAY/MONTH/YEAR FILED	PRIORITY CLAIMED
9912719.3	Great Britain	1 June 1999	X

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

PROVISIONAL APPLICATION(S) UNDER 35 U.S.C. §119(e)	
APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of any United States application, or §365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112.


I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.

PRIOR U.S./PCT INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION(S) DESIGNATED FOR BENEFIT UNDER 35 U.S.C. §120		
APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	STATUS — PATENTED, PENDING, ABANDONED

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith: Herbert Cohen, Reg. No. 25,109; Victor M. Wigman, Reg. No. 25,201; George C. Myers, Jr., Reg. No. 27,040; Donald R. Greene, Reg. No. 22,470; Michael C. Greenbaum, Reg. No. 28,419; Charles R. Wolfe, Jr., Reg. No. 28,690; Michael D. White, Reg. No. 32,795; Brian C. Jones, Reg. No. 37,857; David J. Edmondson, Reg. No. 35,126; Denise C. Lane, Reg. No. 42,780; Peter Weissman, Reg. No. 40,220; Nicholas Bromer, Reg. No. 33,478 and Rafael Perez, Reg. No. 46,041.

Correspondence Address:
BLANK ROME COMISKY & MCCAULEY, LLP
The Farragut Building
Suite 1000
900 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20006
TEL (202) 530-7400
FAX (202) 463-6915

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full Name of sole or first inventor (given name, family name)	
ANDREW LAITT	
Signature 	Date 7 April 2002
Residence LONDON GB 22 Dempster Road, London SW 18 1AT (GB)	Citizenship British Great Britain
Mailing Address Same as Residence Address	
Full Name of additional joint inventor (given name, family name)	
Signature	Date
Residence	Citizenship
Mailing Address	
Full Name of additional joint inventor (given name, family name)	
Signature	Date
Residence	Citizenship
Mailing Address	
Full Name of additional joint inventor (given name, family name)	
Signature	Date
Residence	Citizenship
Mailing Address	
Full Name of additional joint inventor (given name, family name)	
Signature	Date
Residence	Citizenship
Mailing Address	

☐ Additional joint inventors are named on separately numbered sheets attached hereto.